

K-467

Maple Grove
Near Langford
late 1850's

The site of Maple Grove is one of the most dramatic in the County. Without landscaping or trees, the house is perched on a ridge of ground and can be seen for miles in several directions. Located on the 17th century tract Pentridge, the site slopes primarily to the south. It is likely that the house was constructed in the late 1850's by Laurence M. Strong to replace a previous dwelling in the same location. An earlier house is mentioned in the 1852 Tax Assessment where Strong was taxed on 304 acres of "Scott's Farm" with an "Old House in bad repair."¹

The house which Strong built was not only tall and well-situated, but also built using some of the best catalogue millwork available in the mid-19th century. Like Henry Ward Carvill and several other neighbors, Strong chose the popular Italianate style. The usual features of this style are in evidence in the main part of the house which faces north toward the Langford Road and its lane.

Paneled pilasters are found on each of the four corners of the main block which is three stories tall. At the low-pitched roof there are well-executed brackets. There are also bracketed cornices over each of the windows of the five-bay facade and two-bay ends. Originally there was a balustraded deck atop the roof which afforded extensive vistas in every direction. Like Brampton, there were porches on the front and sides of the house. A two-part 'L' wing out the south side originally contained a dining room, kitchen and pantry with quarters above.

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The main house had a central stair plan. Both first floor rooms had jib doors which opened onto the front porch and standard doors to the side porches. The walnut stair ascended to the third floor in a graceful manner so typical of this period.

In the 1877 Atlas, the property is occupied by "J. Rasin."² It was purchased in the 1880's by Thomas W. Eliason, in whose family it remained for 100 years. Most sadly, it has recently been left vacant and open to the elements and is now in derelict condition. Its surrounding farmland is slated for development. If Maple Grove is eventually destroyed the County will suffer a true architectural loss.

1. 1852 Tax Assessment.
2. 1877 Atlas.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Old Rasin Farmand/or common Eliason Farm

2. Location

At end of long lane south side of Langford Rd., $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east
 street & number of Broad Neck Road. (Rt. 446) ☐ not for publication

city, town Chestertown ☒ vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Eliason Family c/o Thomas Eliason

street & number David Drive telephone no.: 301-778-0597

city, town Chestertown state and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Court House liber EHP53

street & number folio 7

city, town Chestertown state Maryland 21620

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☒ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

A boxy, rectangular building, this house is 5 bays wide, two deep and three stories tall. It has a central stair, which curves to the third floor, and a rear ell. Covering the main section of this frame house is a shallow hipped roof with a bracketed cornice that was once topped by a widow's walk or belvedere.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Now abandoned and deteriorating, this house is one of the best examples of the Greek Revival - Italianate Style houses once common throughout the county. It is exceptionally large - 5 bays wide and three stories tall, and it contains some of the best architectural elements available in builder's catalogues of the middle of the last century. Among these elements are window heads, deeply paneled double entry doors, tall windows with jib doors, a heavily bracketed cornice, and handsome stair. Several examples of original interior finishes enhance the interest of this structure.

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PS-2746

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Building Form and Material

1. Size - Main Section: 3 stories, 5 bays wide, 2 bays deep
 Wing A: 2 stories, 2 bays wide, 1 bay deep
 Wing B: 2 stories, 2 bays wide, 3 bays deep/long
2. Plan type - Central hall with rear ell
3. Roof type - Main Section: Low Hip
 Wings: A) Very low-pitched gable B) low-pitched gable; both change to even lower slope near eave to be able to present wide cornice.
4. Chimneys-4 - Locations: each end of main section (interior); rear gable wall end thru ridge - both wings.
 Materials: Brick - Main Section is orange-red
 Decorative elements: Main Section has corbelled caps, with mouse-tooth work below; wing chimneys plain (for stoves?)
5. Material/Walls - Main Section: Is Frame with weatherboard with 5"-6" exposure, with recessed-panel pilasters from foundation to cornice line with simple base and capital.
 Wing A: Is Frame with weatherboard with 5" exposure
 Wing B: Is frame with weatherboard with circa 7" exposure.
6. Material/Roofs - Main section: standing-seam metal. So is wing A & B.
7. Material/Foundation - Main Section: Sides are parged; brick with pilasters at cellar corners
 Wing A: Cellar, parged brick
 Wing B: Crawl space, parged brick (originally piers only with brick infill added later)
8. Age - Main Section: 1850's to 1860's
 Wing A: appears to have been built at same time as the main section
 Wing B: slightly later
9. Style - Vernacular Greek revival, Italianate

Building Elements and Details

1. Doors - Main Entry: Located in the central bay of the main section; large bracketed hood matching window hoods except longer and 2 additional, smaller brackets; 5 light transom; composite moldings - transom bar; 3-light sidelights over 1 recessed panel with Greek ogee backband;

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Frame - same as windows. Pair of 3-octagonal-paneled doors with bolelection moldings.

Secondary Entries: 1) Located in the rear of central hall of the main section. Stoop or porch removed (was small). 2) Both sides of main section, 1st bay - door to side porch remains but sided over on left side, there may have been similar opening on other side of main section. 3) Wing A: both sides near join with main section; 4) Wing B: center bay both sides.

2. Windows - Main section: type - double-hung
lights - large 6/6 - 1st and 2nd floor
details - narrow muntins; large, bracketed hoods - front and sides; appliques above windows and below hoods; plain wood sills; wide, one piece, low-relief split face trim (1½ fillet, Greek ogee and bevel, 1-¼" fillet, ½"-5/8" bead)
shutters - louvered; a few shell shutter dogs (2nd floor) remain; thumb-key latch type hardware on others.
Wings: type- double-hung
lights - 6/6 (those of wing A are larger than Wing B's and same size as Main Section Windows.
details - Wing A: 1" fillet and ½ - 5/8" inside bead; plain sills. Wing B: frame same as Wing A.
shutters - louvered (wing A)-some removed; Wing B - louvered (only one remaining)

3. Dormers - none

4. Roof details - Main Section: Heavy scroll-type brackets circa 18-20" on center throughout with applied round medallions, against 14-16" wide fascia; large bevels and square crown molding.

Wings: Wing B - Simple box cornice with beveled crown and bed moldings; Wing B - tapered vergeboard at rear gable; Wing A - box cornice with ogee crown molding and no bed molding.

5. Porches - Removed - porch across entire front of house with low hip roof probably original (because of jib doors); there is also evidence of porches along the sides of main section. Wing A - small wood porch with shed roof (stoop and 2 steps) - appears to have been added in 20th century. Main section side porch appears to have extended over this wing entry. Wing B - recent small concrete block and brick stoop and steps with shed overhang of plywood - evidence of earlier small, probably wood porch.

6. Color - Current: white paint and trims; green shutters

Historic: Siding appears to have been white; main entry door Spanish brown; shutters perhaps orange-tan.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Interior Description

1. Plan type - Central hall, one room deep; Rear ell.
2. Major stair - Beautiful stair open to third floor. Bold, turned newel, elliptical handrail, walnut; turned oak balusters, 2 per step; open-string with leaf-design step brackets. Colors-ochre, risers and baseboard; Spanish brown spandrel; natural railing.
Other stairs - 2, both enclosed, both in wing.
3. Major mantles - Plain Greek mantel in SE room, first floor. Marbelized slate in round arch in NW room, first floor. Plain marbelized slate mantels on second floor.
4. Major trim - Windows/doors: Greek ogee and bevel backband, inside bead. Most painted Spanish brown. Trim in NW room, 1st floor, dark brown graining.
Baseboards: 7" board with 2" Greek ogee and bevel. Most painted Spanish brown; in NW room, second floor, upper molding is painted ochre.
Cornices: none
Chair rails: none
5. Major doors - 4-panel doors with applied Greek ogee and bevel panel moldings and shallow raised panels. Most painted Spanish brown. Also some simpler doors also 4-panel and some beaded board doors.
6. Floors - Random, medium width yellow pine; Most unfinished.
7. Walls/ceiling finishes - Plaster. In the main stair hall there is a fugitive scroll design in brown on a cream background on walls and ceiling.

Outbuildings/Site Description

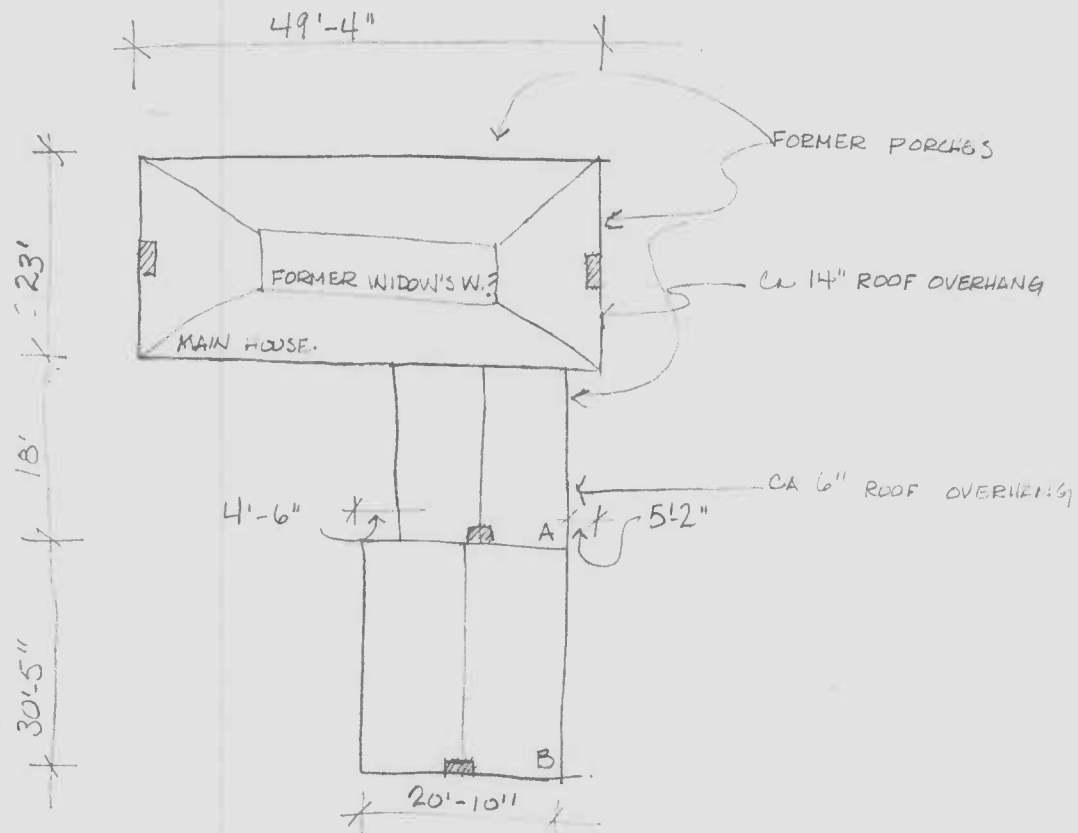
1. Major outbuildings - Farmbuildings of varying ages. Are frame - none distinctive.
2. Site description - The siting of this building, a tall building, on the highest rise of ground near makes it visible from miles around on all sides. The house is reached by a long lane. There are no formal gardens remaining and virtually no trees. The cluster of non-descript farm buildings is quite close to the house.
3. Views to/from site - Surrounding farmlands, rolling hillsides.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Use of Building

1. Current - Abandoned
2. Historic - Farm residence



SKETCH ROOF PLAN

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OLD (ELIASON FARM)
RASIN
FARM





View to Southwest

OLD RASIN FARM (K-467)

Chestertown, Kent County

Photograph: M. L. Fritz, May 1981